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The Numerical Features of the Book of Judges

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The Numerical Features of the Book of Judges

A New Approach to its Compositional Structure

Please read the [Introduction to the Project](#)

Introduction

Having analysed the book of Joshua, I was intrigued to know whether I would encounter the same compositional techniques as I found in Joshua and in the Torah, more specifically the use of the divine name numbers **17** and **26** and their multiples to weave the name of YHWH into the fabric of the text, to finalize certain sections and to highlight crucial passages. The following overview shows in percentages the extent to which **17** and **26** highlight specific passages, which always deal with crucial events. Such passages will be registered and described in Columns 3 and 8 of the tables. The overview is based on my division of the book into **11** Parts, which I will explicate in detail further below.

Part I: 1,1-2,10	34 of the 46 verses (74%) and 514 of the 685 words (75%)
Part II: 2,11-3,6	7 of the 19 verses (37%) and 102 of the 292 words (35%)
Part III: 3,7-11	4 of the 5 verses (80%) and 68 of the 84 words (81%)
Part IV: 3,12-31	11 of the 20 verses (55%) and 163 of the 312 words (52%)
Part V: 4,1-5,31	39 of the 55 verses (71%) and 492 of the 786 words (63%)
Part VI: 6,1-8,35	34 of the 100 verses (34%) and 530 of the 1710 words (31%)
Part VII: 9,1-57	47 of the 57 verses (82%) and 735 of the 875 words (84%)
Part VIII: 10,1-12,15	68 of the 73 verses (93%) and 1093 of the 1146 words (95%)
Part IX: 13,1-16,31	59 of the 96 verses (61%) and 857 of the 1605 words (53%)
Part X: 17,1-18,31	21 of the 44 verses (48%) and 325 of the 740 words (44%)
Part XI: 19,1-21,25	50 of the 103 verses (49%) and 831 of the 1650 words (50%)
Grand Total	374 of the 618 verses (61%) and 5710 of the 9885 words (58%)

The averages in Judges are significantly higher than in Joshua, which are 51% and 53% respectively.

The story of Jephthah in Part VIII stands out with 93% and 95% respectively.

Let me give some salient examples of the use of **17** and **26** and their multiples as highlighting devices in order to give the reader an idea of this most intriguing compositional technique, which is used in the book of Judges in much the same way as in Joshua and the books of the Torah:

1. The Israelites inquire of YHWH and he replies through an oracle (1,1-2): **17 + 9 = 26** words.
2. Some tribes didn't drive out the Canaanites (1,27-33): **68 (4x17) + 52 (2x26)** words.
3. YHWH's Angel warns Israel that YHWH will not drive them out either (2,1-3): **52 (2x26)** words.
4. The Israelites intermarry and serve other gods (3,1-6): **85 (5x17)** words; **340 (20x17)** letters.
5. Ehud and his men subdue Moab (3,28-31): **68 (4x17)** words; **255 (15x17)** letters.
6. The entire passage dealing with the Song of Deborah and Barak (5,1-31): **364 (14x26)** words.
7. Gideon overhears a dream being told in the camp (7,9-14): **104 (4x26)** words; **408 (24x17)** letters.
8. Until this point (7,14), there are **17** divine speeches, which have in total **364 (14x26)** words.
9. Gideon settles scores with Zebah and Zalmuna (8,10-21): **187 (11x17)** words.
10. The Israelites donate **1700** shekels of gold after the defeat of Midian (8,25-28): **68 (4x17)** words.
11. Jotham addresses the people of Shechem (9,6-21): **238 (14x17)** words.
12. Abimelech meets his death in Thebez (9,50-57): **26 + 51 (3x17) + 26** words successively.
13. The need for a strong ruler (10,1-18): **260** words; the rise of Jephthah (11,1-40): **663 (39x17)** words.
14. The tragic consequences of Jephthah's vow (11,34-40): **130 (5x26)** words.
15. Manoah and his wife recognize the Angel and Samson is born (13,19-25): **102 (6x17)** words.
16. Samson's third binding ultimately leads to his imprisonment (16,14-22): **153 (9x17)** words.
17. The dead whom he killed were more than those he had killed in his life (16,30): **26** words.
18. From the beginning until the death of Samson (1,1-16,31) the name YHWH occurs **153x (9x17)**.
19. Micah sets up a shrine (17,2-6): **85 (5x17)** words; a Levite seeks a place to live (17,8-9): **34 (2x17)**.

20. The Danites conquer Laish (18,27): **26** words.
21. They set up Micah's graven image and Jonathan becomes their priest (18,30-31): **34** (2x**17**) words.
22. The Levite's concubine has gone to her father's house; he goes after her (19,2-5): **68** (4x**17**) words.
23. The Israelites ascertain what happened and gather against Gibeah (20,1-11): **156** (6x**26**) words.
24. The Israelites feel remorse and want to find wives for the Benjaminites (21,5-7): **51** (3x**17**) words.
25. The Israelites gather against Jabesh-gilead to take revenge (21,8-10): **52** (2x**26**) words.
26. The Israelites kill all the inhabitants except 400 virgins (21,11-12): **34** (2x**17**) words; **130** (5x**26**) letters.

The Compositional Structure of the Book of Judges

Here follows an overview of the number of verses, words, and letters in the **11** Parts, which is not as spectacular as in the Torah and the book of Joshua, obviously because in the book of Judges the author/redactor highlighted more specifically *smaller* passages by means of the divine name numbers. From a structural point of view, the most significant feature of the book is that it has a tripartite structure and that the **7** occurrences of the phrase *"And the Israelites did what was evil in the sight of YHWH"* form the backbone of the large middle section dealing with the rule of the judges, 2,11-16,31. This phrase is therefore the key to the compositional structure of book. In terms of number, the unity of the judges-section is underscored by the fact that it was finalized and sealed as a distinct literary entity by its **425** (25x**17**) verses and **26843** (1579x**17**) letters.

The concluding section (17-21) is marked off by the phrase *"In those days, there was no king in Israel"* (17,6; 18,1; 19,1; 21,25). In the Story of Ancient Israel in Genesis-Kings it functions as a prelude on the establishment of kingship in Israel: the book of Samuel.

Part I: 1,1-2,10	The precarious state of Israel since the days of Joshua: S	46 vs	685 words 2676 letters	
Part II: 2,11-3,6	Israel does what is evil: 1 the consequences: P	19 vs	292 words 1185 letters	
Part III: 3,7-11	Israel does what is evil: 2 the rule of Othniel: P	5 vs	84 words 343 letters	
Part IV: 3,12-31	Israel does what is evil: 3 the rule of Ehud and Shamgar: S	20 vs	312 words 1215 letters	(12x26)
Part V: 4,1-5,31	Israel does what is evil: 4 the rule of Deborah and Barak: P	55 vs	786 words 3086 letters	
Part VI: 6,1-8,35	Israel does what is evil: 5 the rule of Gideon: P	100 vs	425 1710 words 6646 letters	
Part VII: 9,1-57*	The failed kingship of Abimelech: P	57 vs	25x17 875 words 3389 letters	26843
Part VIII: 10,1-12,15	Israel does what is evil: 6 the rule of six judges: P	73 vs	1146 words 4569 letters	1579x17
Part IX: 13,1-16,31	Israel does what is evil: 7 Samson and the Philistines: P	96 vs	1605 words 6410 letters	
Part X: 17,1-18,31	No king: the apostasy of Micah and the Danites: P	44 vs	740 words 2821 letters	
Part XI: 19,1-21,25	No king: the conflict between Israel and Benjamin: End	103 vs	1650 words 6604 letters	
Totals of Parts II-XI: 2,11-21,25		572 (22x 26) vs	9200 words 36268 letters	
Grand Totals in Parts I-XI, the book as a whole		618 vs	9885 words 38944 letters	
Part VII: 9,1-57*	The failed kingship of Abimelech	57 vs	875 words 3389 letters	
Totals without Part VII: Chapters 1-8 + 10-21		561 (33x 17)	9010 (530x 17) 35555 letters	

In terms of content, Part VII: 9,1-57, the Abimelech-passage, stands out as the story of an unlawful personal enterprise by a wilful man who does not intend to deliver his people, but only wants to achieve his selfish ambitions. What meets the eye immediately in the tables is that the name of YHWH is completely absent in the text, specifically and only in this passage. I interpret this as the way in which the author/redactor conveys the fact that God plays no role whatsoever in the events and that he does not condone Abimelech's dash for power. See also page 9 below.

But there is more: the logotechnical analysis has brought to light that the Abimelech-passage is a secondary addition inserted into an earlier finalized and sealed version of the book. The insertion was done with great care by the final redaction, for it resulted in the **425** (25x**17**) verses and **26843** (1579x**17**) letters in the judges-section: 2,11-16,31, by which it was rounded off and sealed.

The earlier, properly finalized, version of the book:	561 (33x 17) verses	9010 (530x 17) words
The insertion of the Abimelech-passage:	57 verses	875 words
The definitive version of the book:	618 verses	9885 words.

The delimitation of Part I, 1,1-2,10, proposed above depends on a specific positioning of 2,6-10. Does it belong to the preceding passage, or should it be linked to what follows, with Part I as 1,1-2,5?

I shall argue for the first option despite the fact that most scholars choose the latter option.¹

There may be some numerical support for taking Part I as 1,1-2,5 namely the fact that that 2,6-8,35 appears to have been finalized and sealed by its **204** (12x17) verses and **3264** (192x17) words, and 2,6-16,31 by its **6890** (265x26) words. However, in my opinion, the evidence supporting the first option, that is to say, taking Part I as 1,1-2,10, is not only more substantial but also decisive, on the basis of the following considerations:

First, the stereotyped key-phrase in 2,11, “*And the Israelites did what was evil in the sight of YHWH*”, clearly marks a new beginning, which means that there is a strong caesura between 2,10 and 2,11, in any case stronger than the seam between 2,5 and 2,6. This key-phrase occurs **7x**, each time evidently marking a *new beginning*: in 2,11; 3,7; 3,12a; 4,1; 6,1; 10,6 and 13,1.²

Second, the *Joshua*-passage in 2,6-10 forms an inclusion with the reference to *Joshua* in 1,1, which delimits 1,1-2,10 as a distinct literary entity dealing with the precarious state of the Israelites in Canaan since the days of *Joshua*.

Third, the entire middle section of the book 2,11-16,31 (Parts II-IX), dealing with the rule of the judges, is finalized and sealed by **425** (25x17) verses and **26843** (1579x17) letters, which confirms and underscores the delimitation of Part II as 2,11-3,6. See also Observation 7 below.

Finally, 2,11-21,25 (Parts II-XI) is finalized and sealed as a literary entity by its **572** (22x26) verses, which likewise underscores the delimitation of Part II as beginning with 2,11. This decisively settles, in my opinion, the problem of the delimitation of Part I and Part II.

Having established beyond any reasonable doubt the delimitation of Part I as 1,1-2,10, and using the phrase “*And the Israelites did what was evil in the sight of YHWH*” as the key to the division of the judges-section, we can regard the delimitation of 2,11-16,31 (Parts II-IX), in my view, as correct. Returning to the delimitation of Parts II, III, and IV, we can of course regard them as subdivisions of a literary unit, 2,11-3,31, but it is better to take them as three full-fledged Parts. To my mind, the *three successive occurrences* of the key-phrase “*And the Israelites did what was evil in the sight of YHWH*” right at the beginning of the judges-section, strongly enhances their rhetorical power to drive home that it was Israel’s idolatry that elicited YHWH’s anger and his continuous decisions to forgive them and raise up judges to deliver them.

The concluding section of the book, incorrectly called an Appendix by some commentators, divides into two distinct parts marked off by the phrase “*In those days, there was no king in Israel*”:

Part X: 17,1-18,31, the apostasy of Micah and the Danites. In terms of content, 18,1-31 strictly belongs to Chapter 17, therefore the phrase in 18,1 denotes a new beginning *within* 17,1-18,31.

Part IX: 19,1-21,25, the conflict between Israel and the Benjaminites, is a distinct literary entity delimited by the *inclusion* formed by “*In those days, there was no king in Israel*” in 19,1 and 21,25.

Let us now turn to the numerical structure analysis of the book presented in the tables below.

¹ C.F. Keil (CAT, 1874); G.F. Moore (ICC, 1918); R. Kittel (HCAT, 1922); H.W. Hertzberg (ATD, 1953); J. de Fraine (BOT, 1955); R.G. Boling (AB, 1975); J.D. Martin, *The Book of Judges*, Cambridge, 1975; J.A. Soggin (OTL, 1987); P.B. Dirksen (T&T, 1990); W. Groß (HThKAT, 2009). A.D.H. Mayes regards 2,6-10 as a later addition (OTG, Sheffield, 1989, p. 14). Some commentators delimit Part I as 1,1-3,6, e.g., J. Gray (NCBC, 1986); R.G. Boling (ABD 3, 1992); P.D. Guest (Eerdmans, 2003); V.H. Matthews (Cambridge, 2004), while D.M. Gunn (BBC, 2005) and S. Niditch (John Knox Press, 2008) simply follow the chapter division.

² The 8th instance of the phrase, in 12b, is the only exception; it does not denote a new beginning.

Part I: 1,1-2,10 The precarious state of Israel since the days of Joshua

Vss	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
1	Jud 1,1	9+8=17 17+	68	1	17	DS	§1 The first military feat The people: 9+8=17; 68 lett.
2	Jud 1,2	2+7=9 9=26	35	2	26	1	YHWH: 2+7=9 Inquiry and oracle: 26 words.
3	Jud 1,3	4+10+3=17	76		43	7	Judah's invitation to Simeon: 4+10+3=17.
4	Jud 1,4	13	56	3	56		YHWH delivers the Canaanites into their hands.
5	Jud 1,5	12	47		68		The 13 words represent the numerical value of
6	Jud 1,6	12	54		80		אחד, 'One', symbolizing YHWH's uniqueness.
7	Jud 1,7	3+16+4=23	102		103/103	P	Adoni-bezek: 3+16=19
8	Jud 1,8	13	56		116		§2 Judah conquers Jerusalem and Hebron
9	Jud 1,9	10+	45		126		The 13 words of 1,8 are positioned at the mathematical
10	Jud 1,10	18+	73		144		centre of §§ 1-2 (1,1-15) as the consciously designed
11	Jud 1,11	10+	37		154		meaningful centre: 7+1+7 verses; 103+13+103 words.
12	Jud 1,12	14/52 2+12=14	48		168		Caleb: 2+12=14 Except for 1,8, this paragraph as a
13	Jud 1,13	14+	50		182		whole is highlighted by 52 + 51 words, which under-
14	Jud 1,14	15+ 13+2=15	59		197		scores Judah's prominent position. Caleb: 13+2=15
15	Jud 1,15	22/51 2+11+9	72		219/116	P	Caleb's daughter: 2+11=13
16	Jud 1,16	19	69		238		§3 Judah and Simeon conquer more territory
17	Jud 1,17	17+	67		255		
18	Jud 1,18	14+	56		269		Except for 1,16, the entire paragraph is highlighted
19	Jud 1,19	17+	56	4	286		by 78 (3x26) words.
20	Jud 1,20	13+	47		299		This underscores the prominent position of Judah.
21	Jud 1,21	17/78(3x26)	70		316/97	S	
22	Jud 1,22	9+	29	5	325		§4 The house of Joseph conquers Bethel
23	Jud 1,23	9+	34		334		They first spy out the city: an inhabitant shows them
24	Jud 1,24	8+8=16/34	61		350		the way: 34 words.
25	Jud 1,25	15	53		365		The spies: 17+8=16
26	Jud 1,26	14	49		379/63	P	
27	Jud 1,27	32+	127		411		§5 Some tribes didn't drive out the Canaanites
28	Jud 1,28	11+	43		422	S	The layout markers in green function as highlighting
29	Jud 1,29	11+	49		433	P	devices.
30	Jud 1,30	14/68(4x17)	59		447	S	
31	Jud 1,31	19+	67		466		The paragraph is a close-knit unit, rounded off
32	Jud 1,32	9+	37		475	S	and sealed by 120 words (68 + 52).
33	Jud 1,33	24/52(2x26)	86		499/120	S	This illustrates the importance of the driving out.
34	Jud 1,34	11	38		510		§6 The house of Joseph subdues the Amorites
35	Jud 1,35	13	56		523		
36	Jud 1,36	6	31		529/30	P	
37	Jud 2,1	8+16+ 16+	99	6	553	2	§7 YHWH's Angel warns the Israelites: 8+44=52.
38	Jud 2,2	15+ 15+	65		568	44	The two divine speeches have 51 words (7+44).
39	Jud 2,3	13+ 13/44	55		581		The Angel's address and the reaction of the people
40	Jud 2,4	16+	59	7	597		are emphasized by altogether 68 (4x17) words.
41	Jud 2,5	8/68(4x17)	34	8	605/76	P	Divine speeches 1-2 have 51 (3x17) words (7+44).
42	Jud 2,6	12	47		617		§8 Looking back on the days of Joshua
43	Jud 2,7	25+	95	9-10	642		Special emphasis is laid on the obedience of the
44	Jud 2,8	10+	34	11	652		Israelites during the lifetime of Joshua and the
45	Jud 2,9	11+	47		663		elders who outlived him: they had witnessed all
46	Jud 2,10	22/68(4x17)	79	12	685/80	S	the great deeds YHWH had done for them: 68 words.
46 vs	Part I	685	2676	12x	685		

Observation 1 In Part I (1,1-2,10) 34 of the 46 verses (74%) and 514 of the 685 words (75%) are highlighted by 17 and 26. The highlighted passages all deal with crucial episodes in the story.
 The words devoted to the oracle in 1,1-2 (17+9) amount to altogether 26.
 The Angel's speech and its introduction (2,1-3) have altogether 52 (2x26) words.
 The two divine speeches have altogether 51 (3x17) words (7+44).
 The Israelites (the people, Judah and the spies) speak altogether 26 words (8+10+8).
 All this means that the author/redactor did his utmost to weave God's name into the fabric of the text.

Part II: 2,11-3,6 Israel does what is evil:¹ the consequences

Vss	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
47	Jud 2,11	10	41	13	695	DS	§1 Israel provokes YHWH's anger by idolatry
48	Jud 2,12	22	103	14-15	717		
49	Jud 2,13	6	30	16	723		
50	Jud 2,14	19	83	17	742		
51	Jud 2,15	18	63	18-20	760		
52	Jud 2,16	6	29	21	766		
53	Jud 2,17	25	89	22	791		
54	Jud 2,18	22	92	23-25	813		
55	Jud 2,19	18	89		831		
56	Jud 2,20	5+14=19	72	26	850	3	YHWH: 5+44=49
57	Jud 2,21	13	49		863	44	
58	Jud 2,22	17	57	27	880		YHWH will not drive out more nations: 17.
59	Jud 2,23	12	48	28	892/207	P	
60	Jud 3,1	18+	61	29	910		§2 The Israelites intermarry and serve other gods
61	Jud 3,2	13+	48		923		The entire paragraph describing the precarious
62	Jud 3,3	16+	66		939		state of the people of Israel living among
63	Jud 3,4	16+	58	30	955		the indigenous nations: serving other gods,
64	Jud 3,5	10+	51		965		is especially highlighted by 85 (5x17) words and
65	Jud 3,6	12/85(5x17)	56/340		977/85	P	340 (20x170 letters).
19 vs	Part II	292	1185	18x	292		

Observation 2 In Part II (2,11-3,6) 7 of the 19 verses (37%) and 102 of the 292 words (35%) are highlighted by 17 and 26. The highlighted passages all deal with crucial episodes in the story.

Part III: 3,7-11 Israel does what is evil:² the rule of Othniel

Vss	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
66	Jud 3,7	16	68	31-32	993		§3 Israel cries to YHWH: he raises a deliverer
67	Jud 3,8	19+	80	33	1012		YHWH's anger is kindled against Israel and he sells
68	Jud 3,9	19+	76	34-35	1031		them in the hand of the king of Mesopotamia.
69	Jud 3,10	22+	86	36-37	1053		When they cry for help, YHWH raises a deliverer:
70	Jud 3,11	8/68(4x17)	33		1061/84	P	Othniel, who conquers the foreign king: 68 (4x17).
5 vs	Part III	84	343	7x	84		

Observation 3 In Part III (3,7-11) 4 of the 5 verses (80%) and 68 of the 84 words (81%) are highlighted by 17 and 26. The highlighted passages all deal with crucial episodes in the story.

Part IV: 3,12-31 Israel does what is evil:³ the rule of Ehud and Shamgar

Vss	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
71	Jud 3,12	22	81	38-40	1083		§4 Israel commits idolatry; YHWH raises Eglon
72	Jud 3,13	14	54		1097		
73	Jud 3,14	10	40		1107/46	S	
74	Jud 3,15	27	103	41-42	1134		§5 Israel cries to YHWH: he raises Ehud
75	Jud 3,16	16+	58		1150		Ehud girds his sword on his right thigh and goes to
76	Jud 3,17	10/26	41		1160		king Eglon to present Israel's tribute: 26 words.
77	Jud 3,18	11	43		1171		
78	Jud 3,19	8+5=13/20+	75		1191		Ehud: 8+5=13 King Eglon: 1+1=2 Ehud manages
79	Jud 3,20	12+4+3/19+	71		1210		to be alone with Eglon and then Ehud: 12+4=16
80	Jud 3,21	13/52(2x26)	50		1223		he drives his sword into Eglon's belly: 52 (2x26).
81	Jud 3,22	16	60		1239		
82	Jud 3,23	8	39		1247		3,24 Eglon's servants: 10+7=17
83	Jud 3,24	10+7=17	71		1264		His servants find the door of the room locked: 17.
84	Jud 3,25	17	70		1281		Having opened the door they see Eglon is dead: 17.

85	Jud 3,26	10	46		1291		
86	Jud 3,27	14	58		1305		
87	Jud 3,28	2+10+11/23	93	43	1328		Ehud: 2+10=12
88	Jud 3,29	16+	54		1344		Ehud and his men go to battle with the Moabites
89	Jud 3,30	11+	45		1355	S	and by killing thousands they subdue Moab: 68.
90	Jud 3,31	18/68(4x17)	63		1373/266	S	The S calls attention to what is said about Shamgar.
20 vs	Part IV	312(12x26)	1215	6x	312(12x26)		

Observation 4 Part IV (3,12-31), with its 312 words, is in its entirety governed by the number 26.

Additionally, 11 of the 20 verses (55%) and 163 of the 312 words (52%) are highlighted by 17 and 26.

The highlighted passages all deal with crucial episodes in the story.

Part V: 4,1-5,31 Israel does what is evil:⁴ the Rule of Deborah and Barak

Vss	Texts	Words	Lett.	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
91	Jud 4,1	9	37	44	1382	DS	§1 The Israelites cry for help against the mighty Sisera
92	Jud 4,2	16	65	45	1398		
93	Jud 4,3	19	68	46	1417/44	S	4,1-3 is made up of 170 letters.
94	Jud 4,4	11	44		1428		§2 Deborah and Barak decide to join forces
95	Jud 4,5	17	66		1445		4,5 Deborah, a prophetess, was a practising judge: 17.
96	Jud 4,6	9+18=27 18+	112	47	1472	4	Deborah: 9+34=43
97	Jud 4,7	16 16/34	62		1488	29	YHWH: 5+29=34 (quote)
98	Jud 4,8	3+10=13	44		1501		Barak: 3+10=13
99	Jud 4,9	1+20+6=27	92	48	1528		Deborah: 1+20=21
100	Jud 4,10	15	60		1543		
101	Jud 4,11	16	57		1559		
102	Jud 4,12	9	33		1568/151	S	
103	Jud 4,13	19	66		1587		§5 Sisera goes to war: he is killed and Jabin subdued
104	Jud 4,14	4+14+6=26	93	49-50	1613		4,14 Deborah persuades Barak to go to battle: 26.
105	Jud 4,15	20	75	51	1633		Deborah: 4+14+18
106	Jud 4,16	19	68		1652		In 1,1-4,24 the name יהוה occurs 51x (3x17).
107	Jud 4,17	19	68		1671		
108	Jud 4,18	6+6+5=17	72		1688		4,18 Jael invites Sisera to enter her tent: 17.
109	Jud 4,19	2+6+6=14	57		1702		Jael: 6+6=12 Sisera: 2+6=8
110	Jud 4,20	2+14=16	57		1718		Sisera: 2+14=16
111	Jud 4,21	24	91		1742		
112	Jud 4,22	10+7+8=25	92		1767		Jael: 10+7=17
113	Jud 4,23	11	43		1778		2,6-4,24 has 1190 (70x17) words.
114	Jud 4,24	17	59	8x	1795/227	P	4,24 With YHWH's help Jabin is destroyed: 17.
115	Jud 5,1	8+	33		1803		§5 The Song of Deborah and Barak 8+352=360
116	Jud 5,2	7+	31	52	1810		The entire paragraph (5,1-31) is governed by the divine
117	Jud 5,3	12+	56	53-54	1822		name number 26, for it has 364 (14x26) words.
118	Jud 5,4	15+	57	55	1837		5,1-5 The prelude to the Song (including the intro-
119	Jud 5,5	10/52(2x26)	39	56-57	1847		duction) is specifically highlighted by 52 (2x26) words.
120	Jud 5,6	13	56		1860		
121	Jud 5,7	10	44		1870		
122	Jud 5,8	13	53		1883		
123	Jud 5,9	7	33	58	1890		
124	Jud 5,10	10+	38		1900		5,10-11 YHWH's victories are commemorated: 26.
125	Jud 5,11	16/26	67	59-60	1916		
126	Jud 5,12	13	50		1929		
127	Jud 5,13	9+	34	61	1938		5,13-16 Some clans join the army; Reuben carries: 51.
128	Jud 5,14	15+	70		1953		
129	Jud 5,15	15+	62		1968		
130	Jud 5,16	12/51(3x17)	54		1980		
131	Jud 5,17	15	59		1995		
132	Jud 5,18	9	34		2004		
133	Jud 5,19	15	53		2019		
134	Jud 5,20	8	37		2027		
135	Jud 5,21	10+	40		2037		5,21-22 Mighty waters help to defeat the enemy: 17.

136	Jud 5,22	7/17	30		2044		
137	Jud 5,23	16	63	62-64	2060		
138	Jud 5,24	9+	36		2069		5,24-29 Jael is lauded; Sisera's mother is in anguish: 68.
139	Jud 5,25	8++	33		2077		
140	Jud 5,26	13+	62		2090		
141	Jud 5,27	14+	47		2104		
142	Jud 5,28	16+	68		2120		
143	Jud 5,29	8/68(4x17)	33		2128		
144	Jud 5,30	18	76		2146		Note that, from a numerical perspective, the four
145	Jud 5,31	9+4=13	57	65/14x	2159/364 (14x26)	P	words of the editorial note in 5,31b are fully
55	Part V	786	3086	22x	786		integrated into the text of the Song.
145	Parts I-V	2159	8505	65x	2159 (127x17)		

Observation 5 In Part V (4,1-5,31) 39 of the 55 verses (71%) and 492 of the 786 words, including the **364** (14x26) words of 5,1-31, (63%) are highlighted by the numbers **17** and **26**. The highlighted passages all deal with crucial episodes in the story. The **364** words of §5, the Song, are divided by *atnach* into 211 words before, and **153** (9x17) after the verse divider.

For a comprehensive logotechnical structural analysis of the Song in its literary context, of which it is an integral part, see [my article](#) from 2007 (slightly revised).

Part VI: 6,1-8,35 Israel does what is evil: ⁵ the rule of Gideon

Vss	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
146	Jud 6,1	12	48	66-67	2171	DS	§1 Israel, oppressed by Midian, cries for help to YHWH
147	Jud 6,2	19	74		2190		
148	Jud 6,3	11	42		2201		
149	Jud 6,4	16	67		2217		
150	Jud 6,5	16+	69		2233		Israel is brought to destitution and cries for help: 26.
151	Jud 6,6	10/26	40	68	2243/84	P	
152	Jud 6,7	10	34	69	2253		§2 YHWH sends a prophet to the people
153	Jud 6,8	14+8+ (=22)	90	70-71	2275	5	YHWH: 14+39=53 (quote)
154	Jud 6,9	14+	57		2289	39	
155	Jud 6,10	17/39	69	72	2306/63	P	The Israelites have paid reverence to other gods: 17.
156	Jud 6,11	20	79	73	2326		§3 Gideon is called to deliver Israel from the Midianites
157	Jud 6,12	6+4=10	40	74-75	2336	6	YHWH's Angel: 6+4=10
158	Jud 6,13	30	124	76-78	2366	4	
159	Jud 6,14	4+10=14	54	79	2380	7	YHWH: 4+10=14
160	Jud 6,15	16	62		2396	10	
161	Jud 6,16	3+8=11	40	80	2407	8	YHWH: 3+8=11
162	Jud 6,17	13	47		2420	8	Gideon asks YHWH to stay until he returns with a gift: 17.
163	Jud 6,18	1+4+12=17	61		2437	9 4	YHWH: 1+4=5
164	Jud 6,19	20	74		2457/151	S	
165	Jud 6,20	4+12+2=18	65		2475	10	§4 Gideon meets the Angel of YHWH at Ophrah
166	Jud 6,21	24	95	81-82	2499	12	YHWH: 4+12=14
167a	Jud 6,22a	6	21	83-85	2505	S	
167b	Jud 6,22b	14	51		2519	11	
168	Jud 6,23	3+6=9	29	86	2528	6	YHWH: 3+6=9
169	Jud 6,24	16	62	87-88	2544/87	P	
170	Jud 6,25	6+21=27	98	89	2571	12	§5 Gideon destroys Baal's altar, and the after-effects
171	Jud 6,26	19	78	90	2590		YHWH: 6+40=46
172	Jud 6,27	23	91	91	2613		
173	Jud 6,28	19	77		2632		
174	Jud 6,29	17	66		2649		Gideon is the man who destroyed the altar: 17.
175	Jud 6,30	19	66		2668		
176	Jud 6,31	28	99		2696		
177	Jud 6,32	13	45		2709/165	P	
178	Jud 6,33	11	49		2720		§6 Gideon mobilizes troops: the fleece episode
179	Jud 6,34	10	45	92	2730		

180	Jud 6,35	15	71		2745		
181	Jud 6,36	12	47		2757		
182	Jud 6,37	25	86		2782		
183	Jud 6,38	14	49		2796		
184	Jud 6,39	27	89		2823		
185	Jud 6,40	15	51		2838/129	P	
186	Jud 7,1	20	76		2858	13	§7 YHWH orders the fearful and anxious to go home
187	Jud 7,2	4+16=20	71	93	2878	29	YHWH: 4+29=33
188	Jud 7,3	13+9=22	83		2900/62	S	
189	Jud 7,4	4+31=35	111	94	2935	14	§8 The selection of men for the fight
190a	Jud 7,5a	5	16	95	2940	31 S	YHWH: 4+31=35 The S calls attention to God's words: 7,5b
190b	Jud 7,5b	4+18=22	80		2962	15	YHWH: 4+18=22
191	Jud 7,6	17	64		2979/79	18 S	The S calls attention to Gideon's selected men: 17.
192	Jud 7,7	4+15=19+	77	96	2998	16	YHWH: 4+15=19 promises that 300 will defeat the enemy.
193	Jud 7,8	24/43	93		3022/43	15 P	43 is the 'signature' of נִדְעוֹן (3+4+16+6+14). See 8,7-9.
194	Jud 7,9	6+6=12+	47+	97	3034	17	§9 Gideon overhears a dream being told in the camp
195	Jud 7,10	10+	33+		3044	24	YHWH: 6+24=30 Next DS in 10,11-14
196	Jud 7,11	8+9=17+	70+		3061		17 DSS have altogether 364 (14x26) words.
197	Jud 7,12	17+	67+		3078		The Midianites and Amalekites have a huge army: 17.
198	Jud 7,13	27+	115+		3105		The paragraph as a whole is highlighted by its
199	Jud 7,14	21/104(4x26)	76/408		3126/104	P	104 (4x26) words, as well as by its 408 (24x17) letters.
200	Jud 7,15	22	85	98	3148		§10 Gideon calls for a great trumpet blowing
201	Jud 7,16	16	66		3164		
202	Jud 7,17	16	63		3180		
203	Jud 7,18	16	73	99	3196/70	P	
204	Jud 7,19	22	95		3218		§11 With YHWH's help Gideon dislodges the enemies
205	Jud 7,20	18	98	100	3236		
206	Jud 7,21	10+	46		3246		7,21-22 The crucial event is that all enemies flee: 34.
207	Jud 7,22	24/34(2x17)	91	101	3270		
208	Jud 7,23	12	48		3282		
209	Jud 7,24	31	114		3313		
210	Jud 7,25	29	108		3342		
211	Jud 8,1	19	78		3361		
212	Jud 8,2	12	51		3373		
213	Jud 8,3	21	75		3394		
214	Jud 8,4	12	50		3406		
215	Jud 8,5	20	76		3426		
216	Jud 8,6	12	44		3438		
217	Jud 8,7	18+	70	102	3456		The story of Gideon's successful operation is concluded
218	Jud 8,8	14+	59		3470		by 43 words signifying his 'signature'. See 7,7-8 above.
219	Jud 8,9	11/43=נִדְעוֹן	44		3481/285	P	For this device, see Observation 10 in the Joshua file .
220	Jud 8,10	21+	86		3502		§12 The Zebah and Zalmuna episode and Midian's defeat
221	Jud 8,11	14+	60		3516		
222	Jud 8,12	17/52(2x26)+	70		3533		
223	Jud 8,13	8+	33		3541		8,10-21 The entire story how Gideon settles scores with
224	Jud 8,14	15+	63		3556		Zebah and Zalmuna is highlighted by 187 (11x17) words.
225	Jud 8,15	22+	86		3578		The importance of this event is illustrated by the fact that
226	Jud 8,16	14+	53		3592		the Israelites ask Gideon to rule over them (8,22).
227	Jud 8,17	8+	30		3600		
228	Jud 8,18	17+	70		3617		
229	Jud 8,19	13+	44	103	3630		
230	Jud 8,20	15+	53		3645		
231	Jud 8,21	23/187(11x17)	94		3668		
232	Jud 8,22	18	60		3686		
233	Jud 8,23	14	50	104	3700		
234	Jud 8,24	18	66		3718		
235	Jud 8,25	11+	46		3729		On Gideon's request, the Israelites donate their golden
236	Jud 8,26	25+	104		3754		earrings which weigh 1700 shekels (100x17) and ultimately

237	Jud 8,27	17+	76		3771		the Midianites are subdued: 68 (4x17) words.
238	Jud 8,28	15/68(4x17)	63		3786/305	P	
239	Jud 8,29	6+	24		3792		§13 Gideon retires and dies in a good old age
240	Jud 8,30	11/17	42		3803		He had 70 sons and his concubine in Shechem bore him a
241	Jud 8,31	12	42		3815		son whom he called Abimelech: 17 words.
242	Jud 8,32	13	54		3828/42	P	The explicit mention of Abimelech is a cliffhanger!
243	Jud 8,33	15	66		3843		§14 After the death of Gideon the Israelites go astray
244	Jud 8,34	13+	52	105	3856		They are unmindful of YHWH, nor do they show Gideon's
245	Jud 8,35	13/26	45		3869/41	P	family the loyalty that was due to them: 26 words.
100 vs	Part VI	1710	6646	40x	1710		

Observation 6 In Part VI (6,1-8,35) 34 of the 100 verses (34%) and 530 of the 1710 words (31%) are highlighted by **17** and **26**. The highlighted passages all deal with crucial episodes in the story.

Part VII: 9,1-57 The failed kingship of Abimelech, the son of Gideon

Vss	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
246	Jud 9,1	17+	62		3886		§1 Abimelech manipulates the Shechemites
247	Jud 9,2	26+	89		3912		9,1-4 deals with the way he manages to get
248	Jud 9,3	20+	74		3932		support for establishing kingship in Israel: 78 .
249	Jud 9,4	15/78(2x26)	66		3947		
250	Jud 9,5	21	77		3968/99	S	
251	Jud 9,6	17+	65		3985		§2 Jotham addresses the people of Shechem
252	Jud 9,7	19+	80		4004		
253	Jud 9,8	10+	45		4014		The entire paragraph dealing with Jotham's
254	Jud 9,9	15+	62		4029		reaction to Abimelech's kingship, including his
255	Jud 9,10	7+	30		4036		famous Fable, is emphasized by the fact that
256	Jud 9,11	13+	56		4049		it is made up of 238 (14x17) words.
257	Jud 9,12	7+	30		4056		
258	Jud 9,13	13+	59		4069		The Fable (8,8-15) is made up of 98 words,
259	Jud 9,14	9+	32		4078		2x the numerical value of the name אֲבִימֶלֶךְ, 49
260	Jud 9,15	24+	86		4102		(1+2+10+13+12+11=49).
261	Jud 9,16	20+ 20+	81		4122		For particulars about this beautiful composition
262	Jud 9,17	12+ 12+	45		4134		see my article from 2012 on the Fable of Jotham .
263	Jud 9,18	25+ 25+	88		4159		
264	Jud 9,19	16+ 16+	63		4175		8,16-21 The rest of his speech and his flight to
265	Jud 9,20	21+ 21+	78		4196		be out of reach of his brother: 104 (4x26) words.
266	Jud 9,21	10/238 10/104	41		4206/238 (14x17)	P	
267	Jud 9,22	6	24		4212		§3 A breach between Abimelech and Shechem
268	Jud 9,23	13	56		4225		
269	Jud 9,24	23	84		4248		
270	Jud 9,25	17	69		4265/59	P	They sent men to lie in wait for him: 17 .
271	Jud 9,26	11+	42		4276		§4 Gaal sets Shechem against Abimelech
272	Jud 9,27	16+	79		4292		
273	Jud 9,28	24/51(3x17)	90		4316		Except for the last verse, the entire paragraph is
274	Jud 9,29	14+	55		4330		highlighted by 51 and 52 words successively.
275	Jud 9,30	11+	35		4341		
276	Jud 9,31	18+	70		4359		
277	Jud 9,32	9/52(2x26)	32		4368		
278	Jud 9,33	20	76		4388/123	S	
279	Jud 9,34	12	47		4400		§5 Gaal warns Zebul that Abimelech is coming
280	Jud 9,35	15	54		4415		
281	Jud 9,36	21	74		4436/48	S	
282	Jud 9,37	17+	65		4453		§6 Gaal attacks Abimelech but he routes him
283	Jud 9,38	23+	77		4476	S	The S calls attention to Gaal's onslaught.
284	Jud 9,39	7+	30		4483		9,37-41 Gaal's failed attack, which results in
285	Jud 9,40	10+	45		4493		Abimelech's establishment in Arumah: 68 words.
286	Jud 9,41	11/68(4x17)	44		4504		
287	Jud 9,42	7	32		4511		
288	Jud 9,43	17	66		4528		Abimelech and his men attack the Shechemites: 17 .
289	Jud 9,44	17	70		4545		He strikes those who were in the open: 17 .
290	Jud 9,45	19	69		4564/128	P	
291	Jud 9,46	11+	39		4575		§7 The massacre of the men in the tower
292	Jud 9,47	8+	32		4583		

293	Jud 9,48	32/51(3x17)	123		4615		The whole paragraph is highlighted by 51 and 26
294	Jud 9,49	26	100		4641/77	P	words respectively.
295	Jud 9,50	7+	29		4648		§8 Abimelech meets his death in Thebez
296	Jud 9,51	19/26	75		4667		
297	Jud 9,52	12+	46		4679		Interesting to note is that the first king of the era of
298	Jud 9,53	11+	40		4690		the judges dies in much the same way as Saul!
299	Jud 9,54	19+	76		4709		
300	Jud 9,55	9/51(3x17)	36		4718		The whole paragraph is highlighted by 26, 51, and 26
301	Jud 9,56	12+	46		4730		words respectively.
302	Jud 9,57	14/26	53		4744/103	P	
57	Part VII	875	3389	0	875		

Observation 7 In Part VII (9,1-57) 47 of the 57 verses (82%) and 735 of the 875 words (84%) are highlighted by 17 and 26. The highlighted passages all deal with crucial episodes in the story. The name YHWH does not occur in the story of Abimelech's kingship! However, the extremely high percentages of the divine name numbers clearly signify YHWH's *implicit* presence.

Part VIII: 10,1-12,15 Israel does what is evil:⁶ the rule of six judges

Vss	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
303	Jud 10,1	18	71		4762	DS	§1 The rule of Tola
304	Jud 10,2	9	38		4771/27	P	
	Jud 10,3	10	44		4781		§2 The rule of Jair
306	Jud 10,4	21	82		4802		
307	Jud 10,5	4	18		4806/35	P	10,5 The death of Jair, the predecessor of Jephthah.
308	Jud 10,6	33+	135	106-107	4839		§3 Israel oppressed by Philistines and Ammonites
309	Jud 10,7	10+	42	108	4849		
310	Jud 10,8	21+	82		4870		
311	Jud 10,9	14/78(3x26)	64		4884		
312	Jud 10,10	15	60	109	4899	18	The only DS in Part VIII. The 17th DS is in 7,9-11.
313	Jud 10,11	5+9=14	55	110	4913	42	YHWH: 5+42=47 The next DS is in 13,2-5.
314	Jud 10,12	10+	50		4923	P	This P does not have a demarcating function, but
315	Jud 10,13	11+	49		4934		draws attention to vs. 13-16: Israel's penitence.
316	Jud 10,14	12/42	46		4946		
317	Jud 10,15	17	64	111	4963		The Israelites confess their sins: 17 words.
318	Jud 10,16	12	51	112	4975/169	P	
319	Jud 10,17	10	47		4985		§4 The Ammonites are called to arms.
320	Jud 10,18	19	69		5004/29	P	10,1-18 is a distinct literary entity, with 260 words.
321	Jud 11,1	13	49		5017		§5 Jephthah's background and his breakaway
322	Jud 11,2	22	79		5039		
323	Jud 11,3	14	59		5053/49	P	
324	Jud 11,4	7	29		5060		§6 Jephthah becomes leader to fight the Ammonites
325	Jud 11,5	15	57		5075		
326	Jud 11,6	9	42		5084		
327	Jud 11,7	18	72		5102		
328	Jud 11,8	20	80		5122		
329	Jud 11,9	20	78	113	5142		
330	Jud 11,10	14	54	114	5156		
331	Jud 11,11	19	77	115	5175/122	P	
332	Jud 11,12	16	56		5191		§7 Jephthah negotiates with the Ammonites
333	Jud 11,13	23	93		5214		
334	Jud 11,14	9	35		5223		
335	Jud 11,15	15+	48		5238		11,15-16 Jephthah denies that the Israelites took the
336	Jud 11,16	11/26	43		5249		land of the Moabites or that of the Ammonites: 26.
337	Jud 11,17	24	88		5273		
338	Jud 11,18	25	97		5298		
339	Jud 11,19	17	70		5315		11,19-20 Jephthah reminds the king of Ammon that
340	Jud 11,20	17	67		5332		king Sihon had refused Israel right of way: 17 + 17.

341	Jud 11,21	21	79	116	5353		
342	Jud 11,22	12	48		5365		
343	Jud 11,23	12	51	117	5377		
344	Jud 11,24	17+	68	118	5394		11,24-28 Jephthah tries to convince the king of the
345	Jud 11,25	17+	56		5411		Ammonites that the land in question was given to
346	Jud 11,26	20+	89		5431		the Israelites by YHWH and that he should not make
347	Jud 11,27	20+	72	119	5451		war on them, but the king does not heed Jephthah's
348	Jud 11,28	11/85(5x17)	36		5462/287	P	words: 85 (5x17).
349	Jud 11,29	19	71	120	5481		§8 Jephthah makes a vow to YHWH
350	Jud 11,30	12	43	121	5493		
351	Jud 11,31	15	69	122	5508	P	This P draws attention to his subduing the Ammonites,
352	Jud 11,32	10	38	123	5518		for 11,29-33 is an indivisible literary entity.
353	Jud 11,33	19	76		5537/75	P	
354	Jud 11,34	20+	74		5557		§9 The tragic consequences of Jephthah's vow
355	Jud 11,35	22+	89	124	5579		
356	Jud 11,36	22+	79	125-126	5601		The whole paragraph is highlighted by its 130 words.
357	Jud 11,37	20+ 20+	81		5621		
358	Jud 11,38	14+ 14/34	58		5635		Special emphasis on the daughter's decision: 34 words.
359	Jud 11,39	20+	69		5655		11,1-40 is a distinct literary unit, with 663 (39x17)
360	Jud 11,40	12/130(5x26)	55		5667/130	S	words and 2574 (99x26) letters.
361	Jud 12,1	21+	87		5688		§10 The Gileadite-Ephraimite war and Jephthah's rule
362	Jud 12,2	17+	69		5705		
363	Jud 12,3	21+	84	127	5726		
364	Jud 12,4	24+	92		5750		
365	Jud 12,5	20+	86		5770		
366	Jud 12,6	24+	101		5794		
367	Jud 12,7	12+	49		5806/139	P	12,7 The death of Jephthah. Until here 1000 words.
368	Jud 12,8	7+	28		5813		§11 The rule of Ibzan
369	Jud 12,9	19+	77		5832		
370	Jud 12,10	5/170 (10x17)	20		5837/31	P	12,1-10 The rule of Jephthah and Ibzan: 170 words.
371	Jud 12,11	11	48		5848		§12 The rule of Elon
372	Jud 12,12	7	35		5855/18	P	
373	Jud 12,13	8	35		5863		§13 The rule of Abdon
374	Jud 12,14	16	65		5879		
375	Jud 12,15	11	52		5890/35	P	
73 vss	Part VIII	1146	4569	22x	1146		

Observation 8 In Part VIII (10,1-12,15) 68 of the 73 verses (93%) and 1093 of the 1146 words (95%) are highlighted by 17 and 26 (18+40+10 verses and 260+663+170 words). Additionally, several passages are highlighted, because they deal with crucial episodes in the story. Another striking feature is that the Jephthah-passage, 10,6-12,7, that is to say, from the death of his predecessor Jair (10,5) until his own death (12,7) is made up of 1000 words; the round number may be intentional. Moreover, the passage contains 26 speeches by humans (discovered by Klaas Eikelenboom). In Part VIII the key-phrase "The Israelites did what was evil in the sight of YHWH" is to be found in 10,6, being preceded by 10,1-5 dealing with the rule of Tola and Jair. In my view, these five verses strictly belong to Part IX, so there is no reason for taking them as part of the Abimelech-passage, 9,1-57, which is a distinct, close-knit literary entity as it stands.

Part IX: 13,1-16,31 Israel does what is evil: **7** Samson and the Philistines

Vss	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
376	Jud 13,1	13+	57	128-129	5903	P	§1 The annunciation of Samson's birth
377	Jud 13,2	12+	49		5915		This P does not have a delimiting function, because
378	Jud 13,3	7+9=16+	57	130	5931	19	Angel: 7+44=51 13,1-7 is a structural unit.
379	Jud 13,4	11/52(2x26)	38		5942	44	
380	Jud 13,5	24	86		5966		Special emphasis is laid on the Angel's warning to
381	Jud 13,6	25	96		5991		his wife not to drink wine or strong drink or to eat
382	Jud 13,7	25	85		6016/126	P	forbidden food: 52 words.
383	Jud 13,8	20+ 20+	78	131	6036		§2 Manoah and his wife meet the Angel again
384	Jud 13,9	17+ 17+	70		6053		The paragraph until the point that Manoah asks
385	Jud 13,10	15+ 15/52	57		6068		the man's name is highlighted: 156 (6x26) words.
386	Jud 13,11	16+1+1=18+	66		6086	20	Angel: 1+1=2
387	Jud 13,12	10+	40		6096	1	Speeches 20-21: the Angel speaks 26 words.
388	Jud 13,13	5+6=11+	40	132	6107	21	Angel: 5+25=30 Special emphasis is laid on the
389	Jud 13,14	19+	64		6126	25	second visit of the Angel to Manoah's wife: 52 and
390	Jud 13,15	12+	47	133	6138		his warning to her not to offer to him: 34.
391	Jud 13,16	5+10+8=23+	81	134-136	6161	22	Angel: 5+10=15
392	Jud 13,17	11/34/156	41	137	6172	10	
393	Jud 13,18	4+6=10	36	138	6182/166	23 S	Angel: 4+6=10
394	Jud 13,19	16+	65	139	6198	6	§3 They recognize the Angel and Samson is born
395	Jud 13,20	18+	78	140	6216		
396	Jud 13,21	17+	57	141-142	6233		The entire paragraph is highlighted by 6x17 words.
397	Jud 13,22	9+	34		6242		
398	Jud 13,23	21+	77	143	6263		
399	Jud 13,24	11+	45	144	6274		
400	Jud 13,25	10/102 (6x17)	39	145	6284/102	P	
401	Jud 14,1	8+	38		6292		§4 Samson wants to marry a Philistine girl
402	Jud 14,2	15+	65		6307		
403	Jud 14,3	28+	105		6335		The whole paragraph is highlighted by 68 words,
404	Jud 14,4	17/68(4x17)	70	146	6352/68	P	expressing YHWH's approval of the marriage.
405	Jud 14,5	14+	61		6366		§5 The episode of the riddle and his wife's role
406	Jud 14,6	17+	69	147	6383		
407	Jud 14,7	6+	28		6389		14,5-10 The episode of the lion killed by Samson,
408	Jud 14,8	14+	61		6403		which would give rise to the famous riddle, is
409	Jud 14,9	22+	82		6425		specifically highlighted by 85 (5x17) words.
410	Jud 14,10	12/85(5x17)	45		6437		
411	Jud 14,11	8	37		6445		
412	Jud 14,12	23	95		6468		
413	Jud 14,13	18	79		6486		
414	Jud 14,14	14	56		6500		
415	Jud 14,15	24	93		6524		
416	Jud 14,16	25	96		6549		
417	Jud 14,17	19	76		6568		
418	Jud 14,18	23	92		6591		
419	Jud 14,19	22	94	148	6613/261	P	
420	Jud 14,20	7	26		6620		§6 Samson does harm to the Philistines
421	Jud 15,1	20	80		6640		
422	Jud 15,2	18	70		6658		
423	Jud 15,3	11	43		6669		
424	Jud 15,4	19+	75		6688		15,4-8 The episode of the three hundred jackals
425	Jud 15,5	13+	55		6701		which Samson uses to set fire to the standing
426	Jud 15,6	22+	92		6723		grain and sheaves, as well as to the vineyards and
427	Jud 15,7	12+	44		6735		olive groves, is highlighted by 78 (3x26) words.
428	Jud 15,8	12/78(3x26)	43		6747/134	S	

429	Jud 15,9	6+	32		6753		§7 The failed binding of Samson and his revenge
430	Jud 15,10	16+	67		6769		<u>15,9-11</u> The men of Judah confront Samson with
431	Jud 15,11	29/51(3x17)	111		6798		what he has done to the Philistines: 51 words.
432	Jud 15,12	16	64		6814		
433	Jud 15,13	19	80		6833		Numerically this passage forms an inclusion with
434	Jud 15,14	24	104	149	6857		the 51 -word passage in <u>15,18-20</u> .
435	Jud 15,15	11	40		6868		
436	Jud 15,16	11	49		6879		
437	Jud 15,17	11	46		6890		
438	Jud 15,18	20+	81	150	6910		<u>15,18-20</u> The episode of God giving Samson water
439	Jud 15,19	24+	86		6934		from the Hollow of Lehi, and the remark that he
440	Jud 15,20	7/51(3x17)	30		6941/194	P	was judge over Israel for twenty years: 51 words.
441	Jud 16,1	9	34		6950		§8 Samson visits a harlot in Gaza: his first act
442	Jud 16,2	20	82		6970		
443	Jud 16,3	28	112		6998/57	P	
444	Jud 16,4	9	34		7007		§9 Samson is betrayed by Delilah
445	Jud 16,5	24+	94		7031		<u>16,5-7</u> Samson's first binding, which he outlives, is
446	Jud 16,6	13+	50		7044		highlighted by 52 (2x26) words.
447	Jud 16,7	15/52(2x26)	65		7059		
448	Jud 16,8	12	49		7071		
449	Jud 16,9	21	86		7092		
450	Jud 16,10	16	58		7108		
451	Jud 16,11	16+	70		7124		<u>16,11-12</u> Samson's second binding, which he also
452	Jud 16,12	18/34(2x17)	84		7142		outlives, is highlighted by 34 (2x17) words.
453	Jud 16,13	25	93		7167		
454	Jud 16,14	15+	65		7182		<u>16,14-15</u> Samson frustrates a third binding and
455	Jud 16,15	19/34(2x17)	67		7201		Delilah pesters him day after day: 34 (2x17) words.
456	Jud 16,16	11+	46		7212		
457	Jud 16,17	27+	92		7239		<u>16,16-22</u> Samson tells her the whole secret. Then
458	Jud 16,18	28+	102		7267		the Philistines overpower him, gouge out his eyes
459	Jud 16,19	15+	65		7282		and bind him with bronze fetters. He is set to grind
460	Jud 16,20	18+	72	151	7300		grain; meanwhile his hair begins to grow again.
461	Jud 16,21	14+	76		7314		<u>16,14-22</u> has 34 + 119 = 153 (9x17) words.
462	Jud 16,22	6/119(7x17)	22		7320/322	P	<u>13,1-16,22</u> is made up of 1430 (55x26) words.
463	Jud 16,23	16	78		7336		§10 Samson's vengeance and his death
464	Jud 16,24	20	82		7356		
465	Jud 16,25	19	91		7375		
466	Jud 16,26	17	76		7392		<u>16,26-27</u> He asks his escort to put him between
467	Jud 16,27	17	74		7409		the pillars of the house cram-full of people: 17+17 .
468	Jud 16,28	21	86	152-153	7430		
469	Jud 16,29	16	69		7446		
470	Jud 16,30	26	100		7472		The dead whom he killed were more than those he
471	Jud 16,31	23	93		7495/175	P	had killed in his life: 26 words.
96 vs	Part IX	1605	6410	26x	1605		
430 vs	2,6-16,31	6890 (265x26)	27145	96x	6890 (265x26)		

Observation 9 In Part IX (13,1-16,31) 59 of the 96 verses (61%) and 857 of the 1605 words (53%) are highlighted by **17** and **26**. The highlighted passages all deal with crucial episodes in the story.

The presence of YHWH in the story of Samson is symbolized by the **26** occurrences of his name.

Until this point in the book, Parts I-IX (1,1-16,31), the name of YHWH occurs **153x** (9x17).

On the basis of the alternative positioning of 2,6-10, linking it to Part II: 2,6-3,6, it is intriguing to find that Parts II-IX (as 2,6-16,31) have **6890** (265x26) words. This can be regarded as evidence showing that 2,6-16,31 has been finalized and sealed as a distinct literary entity. However, on weighty considerations, I have argued for linking 2,6-10 to the preceding passage: Part I as 1,1-**2,10**. See the Introduction above.

Part X: 17,1-18,31 No king: the apostasy of Micah and the Danites

Vss	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
472	Jud 17,1	6	25		7501		§1 Micah sets up a local shrine in his house
473	Jud 17,2	23+	87	154	7524		Except for v. 6, the apostasy of Micah is highlighted
474	Jud 17,3	21+	83	155	7545		to focus specifically on an incident that illustrates
475	Jud 17,4	16+	68		7561		the situation in which everyone did what was right
476	Jud 17,5	16+	60		7577		in his own eyes, since <i>"in those days there was no</i>
477	Jud 17,6	9/85(5x17)	37		7586/91	P	<i>king in Israel"</i> : 85 (5x17) words.
478	Jud 17,7	12	45		7598		§2 Micah installs a Levite as his priest
479	Jud 17,8	17	66		7615		
480	Jud 17,9	17	67		7632		<u>17,7-11</u> A man from Bethlehem is in search of a
481	Jud 17,10	20	77		7652		place to live and comes to the house of Micah in
482	Jud 17,11	10	38		7662		Ephraim; Micah hires him to be his priest: 78 (3x26).
483	Jud 17,12	12	43		7674		
484	Jud 17,13	13	45	156	7687		Note that <u>18,1</u> forms an inclusion with <u>17,1-6</u> . So do
485	Jud 18,1	24	88		7711/125	S	the Danites with Micah <i>"seeking a place to live"</i> .
486	Jud 18,2	30	124		7741		§3 The Danites consult Micah about their journey
487	Jud 18,3	24	79		7765		
488	Jud 18,4	11+	42		7776		<u>18,4-6</u> Special emphasis is laid on the inquiry by the
489	Jud 18,5	12+	52		7788		Danites and Micah's favourable answer: 34 (2x17).
490	Jud 18,6	11/34(2x17)	41	157	7799/88	P	
491	Jud 18,7	30+	121		7829		§4 The migration of the Danites to settle in Laish
492	Jud 18,8	10+	41		7839		
493	Jud 18,9	20+	77		7859		<u>18,7-15</u> The story of the exploration of Laish by the
494	Jud 18,10	21+	74		7880		five spies from the tribe of Dan <i>"seeking a place for</i>
495	Jud 18,11	12+	51		7892		<i>itself"</i> , and their arrival at the house of Micah where
496	Jud 18,12	19+	74		7911		they meet the young Levite, while the six hundred
497	Jud 18,13	8+	30		7919		fully armed Danites stand by the entrance of the gate:
498	Jud 18,14	24+	98		7943		156 (6x26) words.
499	Jud 18,15	12/156(6x26)	47		7955		
500	Jud 18,16	12	46		7967		
501	Jud 18,17	28	112		7995		
502	Jud 18,18	18	69		8013		
503	Jud 18,19	25	94		8038		
504	Jud 18,20	13	49		8051		
505	Jud 18,21	10+	44		8061		<u>18,21-22</u> When the Danites have gone a distance from
506	Jud 18,22	16/26	63		8077		Micah's house, his neighbours are called out in pursuit:
507	Jud 18,23	12	45		8089		26 words.
508	Jud 18,24	18	61		8107		
509	Jud 18,25	18	68		8125		
510	Jud 18,26	14	51		8139		
511	Jud 18,27	26	84		8165		<u>18,27</u> The conquest of Laish by the Danites: 26 words.
512	Jud 18,28	21	76		8186		
513	Jud 18,29	15	57		8201		
514	Jud 18,30	21+	76		8222		<u>18,30-31</u> The Danites set up Micah's graven image and
515	Jud 18,31	13/34(2x17)	46		8235/436	P	Jonathan and his sons become their priests: 34 words.
44 vss	Part X	740	2821	4x	740		
370 vs	Parts VI-X	8076	23835	92x	8076		

Observation 10 In Part X (17,1-18,31) 21 of the 44 verses (48%) and 325 of the 740 words (44%) are highlighted by **17** and **26**. The highlighted passages all deal with crucial episodes in the story.

Part XI: 19,1-21,25 No king: the conflict between Israel and the Benjaminites

Vss	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum wrds	P/S	Compositional Structure
516	Jud 19,1	20	76		8255		§1 The tragic death of the Levite's concubine in Gibeah
517	Jud 19,2	17+	65		8272		<u>19,1</u> "In those days, there was no king in Israel" forms
518	Jud 19,3	20+	88		8292		an inclusion with the same phrase in <u>21,25</u> .
519	Jud 19,4	13+	53		8305		<u>19,2-5</u> The Levite's concubine goes to her father's house;
520	Jud 19,5	18/68(4x17)	71		8323		he goes after her and lodges there: 68 words.
521	Jud 19,6	15	61		8338		
522	Jud 19,7	9	33		8347		
523	Jud 19,8	17	74		8364		<u>19,8</u> Her father convinces him to stay longer: 17 words.
524	Jud 19,9	30	119		8394		
525	Jud 19,10	18	73		8412		
526	Jud 19,11	19	67		8431		
527	Jud 19,12	16	58		8447		
528	Jud 19,13	10+	43		8457		<u>19,13-21</u> The Levite, his servant and his concubine set
529	Jud 19,14	9+	39		8466		out and when they have arrived at the square in Gibeah,
530	Jud 19,15	15+	61		8481		an old man invites them to lodge with him. He accepts.
531	Jud 19,16	19+	71		8500		
532	Jud 19,17	15+	59		8515		The stage is set for the resultant drama: 136 (8x17) words.
533	Jud 19,18	28+	105	158	8543		
534	Jud 19,19	19+	68		8562		
535	Jud 19,20	13+	44		8575		
536	Jud 19,21	8/136(8x17)	47		8583		
537	Jud 19,22	31	116		8614		
538	Jud 19,23	24	81		8638		
539	Jud 19,24	20	84		8658		
540	Jud 19,25	22	94		8680		
541	Jud 19,26	13	48		8693		
542	Jud 19,27	18	75		8711		
543	Jud 19,28	13	54		8724		
544	Jud 19,29	17	77		8741		
545	Jud 19,30	23	87		8764/529	P	
546	Jud 20,1	17+ 17	64	159	8781		§2 The Israelites gather for war against Gibeah
547	Jud 20,2	17+ 17	63		8798	P	<u>20,1-2</u> Four hundred thousand men assemble: 17 + 17 .
548	Jud 20,3	16+	67		8814		§3 They ask the Levite how the crime has happened
549	Jud 20,4	14+ 14+	63		8828		
550	Jud 20,5	16+ 16+	62		8844		<u>20,4-7</u> The Levite tells what happened: 52 (2x26) words.
551	Jud 20,6	13+ 13+	57		8857		
552	Jud 20,7	9+ 9/52	31		8866		
553	Jud 20,8	14+	48		8880		The paragraph in its entirety is highlighted by 156 words.
554	Jud 20,9	8+	31		8888		
555	Jud 20,10	23+	97		8911		
556	Jud 20,11	9/156(6x26)	33		8920/156	P	
557	Jud 20,12	14+	57		8934		§4 The Israelites demand the handing over of the culprits
558	Jud 20,13	20/34(2x17)	84		8954		The Benjaminites refuse and prepare for war: 34 words.
559	Jud 20,14	11	47		8965		
560	Jud 20,15	20	83		8985		
561	Jud 20,16	18	58		9003/83	P	
562	Jud 20,17	15	56		9018		§5 The Israelites consult YHWH and go against Gibeah
563	Jud 20,18	17+2+2=21	90	160	9039	24	YHWH: 2+2=4 The Israelites inquire of YHWH: 17 words.
564	Jud 20,19	7	30		9046/43	2 P	
565	Jud 20,20	13	54		9059		§6 The battle is undecided: YHWH advises to go again
566	Jud 20,21	14	61		9073		
567	Jud 20,22	13	55		9086	25	
568	Jud 20,23	18+2+2=22	92	161-163	9108/62	2 P	YHWH: 2+2=4
569	Jud 20,24	8+	32		9116		§7 Israel looses 18.000 men: YHWH is again consulted
570	Jud 20,25	20+	78		9136		

571	Jud 20,26	24/52(2x26)	94	164-165	9160		20,24-26 The battle is still undecided and the Israelites go
572	Jud 20,27	10	44	166	9170		to Bethel to weep and fast: 52 words. 20,26-27 34 words.
573	Jud 20,28	20+2+5=27	102	167	9197	26	YHWH: 2+5=7 words. The last DS .
574	Jud 20,29	6	25		9203/95	5 P	
575	Jud 20,30	13	54		9216		§8 The third onslaught on Gibeah
576	Jud 20,31	26	107		9242		20,31 The Benjaminites kill Israelites in the highways: 26 .
577	Jud 20,32	16	73		9258		
578	Jud 20,33	14	59		9272		
579	Jud 20,34	18	73		9290/87	P	
580	Jud 20,35	21+	84	168	9311		§9 The ultimate defeat of the Benjaminites
581	Jud 20,36	18+	67		9329		20,35-37 They Israelites go against Gibeah with 10.000
582	Jud 20,37	13/52(2x26)	49		9342		picked men and they kill 25.100 Benjaminites: 52 words.
583	Jud 20,38	12+	48		9354		20,38-43 The battle continues and the Israelites try to
584	Jud 20,39	21+	92		9375		deceive the Benjaminites with smoke from Gibeah and
585	Jud 20,40	15+	63		9390		they flee in the direction of the wilderness, suffering many
586	Jud 20,41	12+	44		9402		casualties: 85 (5x17) words.
587	Jud 20,42	14+	68		9416		
588	Jud 20,43	11/85(5x17)	48		9427		
589	Jud 20,44	11	38		9438		
590	Jud 20,45	19	85		9457		
591	Jud 20,46	17	62		9474		20,46 That day 25.000 Benjaminites fall in battle: 17 .
592	Jud 20,47	14	58		9488		
593	Jud 20,48	22	78		9510/220	P	19-20 78 (3x26) verses and 1275 (75x17) words.
594	Jud 21,1	12	47		9522		§10 The Israelites go to Bethel and weep bitterly
595	Jud 21,2	15	56		9537		
596	Jud 21,3	13	56	169	9550		
597	Jud 21,4	10	45		9560/50	P	
598	Jud 21,5	26+	95	170-171	9586		§11 The Israelites have compassion with Benjamin
599	Jud 21,6	12+	51		9598		21,5-7 They feel remorse over their kinsmen and wonder
600	Jud 21,7	13/51(3x17)	61	172	9611		how to provide wives for those who are left: 51 (3x17).
601	Jud 21,8	21+	73	173	9632		21,8-10 Because the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead did not
602	Jud 21,9	9+	34		9641		take part in the battles, a cohort of 12.000 men are sent to
603	Jud 21,10	22/52(2x26)	85		9663		take revenge: 52 (2x26) words.
604	Jud 21,11	12+	42		9675		21,11-12 They kill everyone except the 400 virgins they
605	Jud 21,12	22/34(2x17)	88		9697/137	P	found there and bring to the camp at Shilo: 34 words.
606	Jud 21,13	13	52		9710		§12 There is still a lack of wives for the Benjaminites
607	Jud 21,14	16	58		9726		
608	Jud 21,15	9	35	174	9735		
609	Jud 21,16	11	48		9746		
610	Jud 21,17	8	37		9754		
611	Jud 21,18	16	65		9770/73	S	
612	Jud 21,19	20	83	175 (25x7)	9790		§13 The Israelites advise their brothers to capture virgins
613	Jud 21,20	8	33		9798		
614	Jud 21,21	20	87		9818		
615	Jud 21,22	25	95		9843/73	S	
616	Jud 21,23	20	84		9863		§14 The civil war is ended and everyone goes home
617	Jud 21,24	13	58		9876		
618	Jud 21,25	9	37		9885/42		21,25 forms an inclusion with 2,11 which strongly suggests
103 vs	Part XI	1650	6604	18x	1650		that 2,11–21,25 (Part II-IX) is a distinct literary entity,
147 vs	Parts X-XI	2390	9425	22x	2390		which is underscored by the fact that it is finalized and
528 vs	Parts V-XI	8512	33525	132x	8512		sealed by 572 (22x26) verses. This is additional evidence
572 vs	Parts II-XI	9200	36268	163x	9200		that support the proposed delimitation of Part I (1,1-2,10).
618 vs	Parts I-XI	9885	38944	175x	9885		See the Introduction above.

Observation 11 In Part XI (19,1-21,25) 50 of the 103 verses (49%) and 831 of the 1650 words (50%) are highlighted by **17** and **26**. The highlighted passages all deal with crucial episodes in the story.

Worth noting is that Part XI is demarcated by the inclusion formed by the phrase *“In those days, there was no king in Israel”* in the first (19,1) and last verse (21,25)!

The 26 Divine Speeches in Judges

Numbers	Texts	Introductions	Speakers >> Addressees	Words	Totals
1	1,2	2	YHWH ¹ >> Israel	7+	9
2	2,1ff.	8	Angel ¹ >> Israel	44	52 (2x26)
3	2,20ff.	5	YHWH ² >> Himself	44+	49
4	4,6f.	5	Deborah >> Barak: quotes YHWH ¹	29+	34 (2x17)
5	6,8ff.	14/34 (2x17)	Prophet >> Israel: quotes YHWH ²	39/68/119	53
6	6,12	6	Angel ² >> Gideon ¹	4+	10
7	6,14	4	YHWH ³ >> Gideon ²	10+	14
8	6,16	3	YHWH ⁴ >> Gideon ³	8+	11
9	6,18	1	YHWH ⁵ >> Gideon ⁴	4/26	5
10	6,20	4	Angel ³ >> Gideon ⁵	12+	16
11	6,23	3	YHWH ⁶ >> Gideon ⁶	6+	9
12	6,25f.	6	YHWH ⁷ >> Gideon ⁷	40+	46
13	7,2f.	4	YHWH ⁸ >> Gideon ⁸	29+	33
14	7,4	4	YHWH ⁹ >> Gideon ⁹	31+	35
15	7,5	4	YHWH ¹⁰ >> Gideon ¹⁰	18/136 (8x17)	22
16	7,7	4	YHWH ¹¹ >> Gideon ¹¹	15+	19
17	7,9ff.	6	YHWH ¹² >> Gideon ¹²	24/39	30
1-17	1-7	83	YHWH: 14x Angel: 3x	364 (14x26)	447
18	10,11ff.	5	YHWH ¹³ >> Israel	42	47
19	13,3ff.	7	Angel ⁴ >> Manoah's wife	44	51 (3x17)
20	13,11	1	Angel ⁵ >> Manoah	1	2
21	13,13f.	5	Angel ⁶ >> Manoah	25	30
22	13,16	5	Angel ⁷ >> Manoah	10	15
23	13,18	4	Angel ⁸ >> Manoah	6	10
24	20,18	2	YHWH ¹⁴ >> Israel	2	4
25	20,23	2	YHWH ¹⁵ >> Israel	2	4
26	20,28	2	YHWH ¹⁶ >> Israel (oracle)	5	7
18-26	10-20	33	YHWH: 4x Angel: 5x	137	170
1-26	1-20	116	YHWH: 16x (quoted: 2x) Angel: 8x	501	617

Observation 12 The first 5 speeches have 34 (2x17) words in the introductions and altogether 163 words in the speeches of which 119 (7x17) are attributed to YHWH and 44 to his Angel. Of these 119 words 51 (3x17) are actually spoken by YHWH and 68 (4x17) are quoted by Deborah. The 12 speeches are all addressed to Gideon, crammed into Chapters 6-7. The high density signifies the importance of Gideon's rule.

The Abimelech-passage, in which YHWH's name is totally absent, functions as a caesura dividing the 26 speeches into 17 before and 9 after. The 17 speeches in Chapters 1-7 have altogether 364 (14x26) words. Including their introductions, the 9 speeches in Chapters 10-20 have altogether 170 words.

Observation 13 There are altogether 205 instances of words spoken by humans in the book. The vast number induced me not to register them in the tables, in order to avoid overfilling them with information and overburdening the reader. I owe thanks to Klaas Eikelenboom for having sorted them out in detail and compiled a conveniently arranged list. The intriguing numbers of the men under arms and the fallen, in Judges 20-21, have been left out of consideration in the present context (as in the case of the census in the book of Numbers). Since Eikelenboom has put forward a completely new interpretation of these numbers, I urged him to write an article on the subject (for *Vetus Testamentum*?).